

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite E Springfield, Oregon 97477 www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene

Bureau of Land Management
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BLM
Eugene District Office

Road Work Planned To Improve Travel And Fish Passage

(Springfield, OR) A series of road improvement projects planned across the BLM's Eugene District this summer will benefit visitors, as well as native fish. Most of the projects are scheduled to begin in mid-July; visitors may encounter short delays and roads with restricted access through mid-September.

The replacement and installation of new culverts on BLM roads 15-6-31 (Swartz creek Road), 16-6-8, 16-6-17 (Shell Road), and 16-7-11 (Amy Road) will begin in early July; visitors may encounter short delays. Several projects are planned along Siuslaw River Road. This road is very popular in the summer months; it provides access to an array of recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, and picnicking. Crews will make needed repairs to several sections of the road, including the construction of an earthen retaining wall. The road will not be open at milepost 9.0 for up to 3 weeks during construction (July 21 – September 7). After that time, a single lane of traffic will be open until the project is complete.

Visitors should be aware that after July 14th, Whittaker Creek Campground, located along Siuslaw River Road, will not be open. Crews will be installing a new steel truss bridge that will provide walking access within the campground. Clay Creek Campground, which is nearby, will remain open all season but will not be accessible from Highway 126 during the 3 busiest weeks of construction on Siuslaw River Road.

Several projects are planned to improve fish passage between July 14 and September 14. An aging, metal culvert will be replaced with a concrete bridge structure on BLM Road 20-6-13, located just off Siuslaw River Road. The concrete structure is designed to last longer, and typically requires less maintenance than a metal culvert. Another fish passage enhancement project to replace an aging culvert is planned on BLM Road 19-1E-16 (Horn Butte Road). These roads will not be open during construction.

Drilling to locate bedrock to determine the best places for future fish passage enhancement projects is also planned at various locations across the District; visitors may encounter intermittent delays. This work will continue into 2015. These fish passage enhancements are a continuation of work that has been done over the past several years to restore habitat for native species of fish, including Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and Cutthroat trout, and make it easier for fish to reach that habitat.

Information about the specific dates when thru travel will not be possible, as well as information about alternate routes around construction areas will be available at the Eugene District Office at (541) 683-6600. For general information about the Eugene District visit www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene.

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This aged and undersized culvert in McGowan Creek is an example of one of many culverts that will be replaced to improve fish passage. Currently native species of fish have to jump a height of almost 4 feet at the outlet of some culverts to reach restored habitat upstream.



The deteriorated footbridge in Whittaker Creek Campground will be replaced with a steel truss bridge this summer. The new bridge will offer excellent vantage points for visitors to view native salmon spawning in Whittaker Creek during the fall.

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